Opening of Post Offices in Villages of Himachal Pradesh

*168 SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1258 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 1999 and state;

(a) whether the norms and formalities to open Branch Post Offices in the villages of Himachal Pradesh during the year 1999-2000 have since been completed; and

(b) if so, the details of the villages where such Post Offices will start functioning from March, 2000 and the details of leftover places alongwith the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

The norms and formalities to open 7 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the villages of Himachal Pradesh during the year 1999-2000 have since been completed.

(b) An Extra Departmental Branch Post Office has been opened at Village Mair, District.Hamirpur on 29.1.2000 by redeployment of Extra Department post. The following Extra Departmental Post Offices have not yet been opened since the sanctioning of posts of Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters from the Ministry of Finance is awaited. These Brach Post Offices will be opened before 31.3.2000 subject to the sanction of posts of Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters.

(i) Rakkar, Distt. Kangra

(ii) Dhaniri, Distt. Kangra

(iii) Nanhar, Distt. Kangra

(iv) Badukhar, Distt. Kangra

(v) Jhanjhiani, Distt. Hamirpur

(vi) Khuthrin, Distt. Hamirpur

Holding of Court Proceedings in Baroda Jail

*169. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Baroda (Gujarat) has decided to hold the court in the Jail's Open air theatre for quick trial and disposal of petty offenders;